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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,857	12/13/2001	Prabhakar Gopalan	AUS920010976US1	7504
35525	7590	05/20/2005		EXAMINER
IBM CORP (YA)				PILLAI, NAMITHA
C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC				
P.O. BOX 802333			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
DALLAS, TX 75380			2173	

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/015,857	GOPALAN, PRABHAKAR
	Examiner Namitha Pillai	Art Unit 2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-4, 7-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6, 466, 952 B2 (Hanes et al.), herein referred to as Hanes.

Referring to claims 1, 17 and 20, Hanes discloses a method for remotely storing data (column 1, lines 6-9). Hanes discloses opening a first data item in an application on a first client device (column 4, lines 39-45). Hanes discloses loading a set of preferences for a user (column 4, lines 40-50). Hanes also discloses in response to an action from a user, storing at least a portion of the first data item in a predetermined storage location on the first client device based on the set of preferences (column 4, lines 30-50). Hanes also discloses in response to a synchronization condition, automatically synchronizing contents of the predetermined location with a remote storage location (column 5, lines 12-16).

Referring to claim 2, Hanes discloses adding a remote save button to an interface application (column 8, lines 32-34).

Referring to claim 3, Hanes discloses selection of the remote save button (column 8, lines 32-34).

Referring to claim 4, Hanes discloses a predetermined directory or folder for the predetermined storage location (column 4, lines 40-45).

Referring to claim 7, Hanes discloses that the location is identified in the set of preferences (column 4, lines 40-46).

Referring to claim 8, Hanes discloses that the set of preferences is one of a plurality of sets of preferences in a multi-user environment (column 4, lines 25-31 and column 8, lines 4-6).

Referring to claim 9, Hanes discloses identifying a selected portion of the first data item (column 4, lines 60-61). Hanes discloses creating a second data item with the selected portion, and storing the second data item in the predetermined storage location (column 5, lines 12-16).

Referring to claim 10, Hanes discloses selection of a synchronization button (column 8, lines 32-34).

Referring to claim 11, Hanes discloses expiration of predetermined time period for the synchronization (column 5, lines 58-67).

Referring to claims 12 and 18, Hanes discloses that the remote storage location is a server device (Figure 4).

Referring to claim 13, Hanes discloses that the server device comprises one network file server and a Web server (Figure 4 and column 4, lines 10-15).

Referring to claims 14 and 19, Hanes discloses requesting, at a second client device, access to the server device and in response to receiving permission from the server device, accessing, at the second client device, data items stored in the remote storage location (column 4, lines 31-41).

Referring to claim 15, Hanes discloses requesting access to the server device comprises sending authentication information from the second client device to the server device (column 4, lines 35-37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanes.

Referring to claim 16, Hanes does not explicitly disclose using a username and a password for authentication. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to disclose using a username and password. Hanes discusses using verification steps based on user input, wherein user input is relied upon to determine access to a storage system. The addition of username and password as authentication would have been obvious as it is a well known mechanism used for verification of a process or user. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use a username and password for authentication.

Response to Claim Changes

3. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 7, 8, 17 and 20 to better specify the present invention and the cancellation of claims 5 and 6. However all claims are rejected as being previously disclosed in prior arts.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2/2/05 concerning claims 1, 8, 17 and 20 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to Applicant's arguments that Hanes does not disclose loading a set of user preferences. The amendments of the independent claims when interpreted teach that a set of preferences is loaded for the user. This indicates that a set of preferences, representing any data that the user may choose to view is loaded for the user, further interpreted as a set of data loaded for the user to view. When the user chooses a distinct directory, a set of preferences in this case the directory and data within the directory that the user has chosen is further loaded and displayed for the user to view. The arguments refer to user preferences, whereas the claims refer to the loading for preferences for a user.

With respect to Applicant's arguments that Hanes does not teach a set of preferences nor a multi-user environment. The interpretation disclosed above teaches that the preferences are represented by data that is a directory, wherein Hanes discusses the existence of multiple directories and therefore a set of preferences. Furthermore, Hanes discusses user interacting with a network server during the loading of the preferences, wherein this network server represents a multi-user environment (column 8, lines 4-6).

Applicant's arguments concerning claim 16 have been considered and the claim has further been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103 as being obvious over Hanes.

Conclusion

5. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and

Art Unit: 2173

Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, central FAX number (703) 872-9306 may be used. NOTE: A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

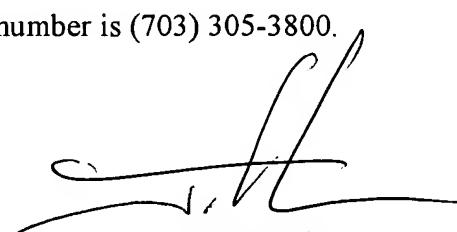
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
May 13, 2005


JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER